

As soon as the microprocessor is finished with the implementation of the print routine (step 405), a request is made to the security module to implement an accounting. The security module now implements the accounting (steps 322, 323) and sends (step 324) the security code DAC to the microprocessor 91 of the meter, which is now in a position to complete the formatting of the print image for the further print image (step 414).

The paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1 has been amended as follows:

The main memory RAM 93 serves for the volatile intermediate storage of intermediate results. The non-volatile memory NVM 94 serves for the non-volatile intermediate storage of data, for example statistical data that are classified according to cost centers. The calendar/clock module 95 likewise contains addressable but non-volatile memory areas for the non-volatile intermediate storage of intermediate results or the storage of known program parts. The control unit 1 is connected to a chip card write/read unit 70, and the microprocessor 91 of the control unit 1 is programmed, for example, for loading the payload data N from the memory area of a chip card for application in corresponding memory areas of the postage meter machine. A first chip card 49 (see Fig. 3) inserted into an insertion slot 72 of the chip card write/read unit 49 allows loading of a dataset into the postage meter machine for at least one application. For example, the chip card 49 contains the postage fees for all standard mail carrier services according to the rate schedule of the postal authority and a mail carrier identifier in order to generate a stamp image with the postage meter machine and frank the pieces of mail in conformity with the rate schedule of the postal authority.

#### **IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 has been amended as follows: